

CHAPTER 10—PAYMENTS TO MISSING PERSONS

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AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIV, §1484(f)(1), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1717, revised chapter heading so as to appear in all capital letters.

1986—Pub. L. 99-399, title VIII, §806(a)(2), Aug. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 885, added item 559.

1972—Pub. L. 92-477, §1(1), Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 793, inserted “trailers; additional movements;” after “household and personal effects;” in item 554.

1966—Pub. L. 89-554, §5(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 625, added chapter 10 and items 551 to 558.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 10 sections 1482, 1524; title 18 section 1923; title 38 section 107.

§ 551. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) The term “dependent”, with respect to a member of a uniformed service, means—

- (A) his spouse;
- (B) his unmarried child (including an unmarried dependent stepchild or adopted child) under 21 years of age;
- (C) his dependent mother or father;
- (D) a dependent designated in official records; and
- (E) a person determined to be dependent by the Secretary concerned, or his designee.

(2) The term “missing status” means the status of a member of a uniformed service who is officially carried or determined to be absent in a status of—

- (A) missing;
- (B) missing in action;
- (C) interned in a foreign country;
- (D) captured, beleaguered, or besieged by a hostile force; or
- (E) detained in a foreign country against his will.

(3) The term “pay and allowances” means—

- (A) basic pay;
- (B) special pay;
- (C) incentive pay;
- (D) basic allowance for quarters;
- (E) basic allowance for subsistence; and
- (F) station per diem allowances for not more than 90 days.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §5(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 625; amended Pub. L. 99-145, title XIII, §1301(g), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 737; Pub. L. 100-26, §8(e)(10), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 287.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
551(1)	50 App. 1001.	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §1, 56 Stat. 143; July 1, 1944, ch. 371, §1, 58 Stat. 679; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(1), (2), 78 Stat. 437.
551(2)	50 App. 1002(a) (22d through 66th words of 1st sentence, for definition purposes).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §2(a) (22d through 66th and 96th through 120th words of 1st sentence, for definition purposes); added July 1, 1944, ch. 371, §2, 58 Stat. 679; Apr. 4, 1953, ch. 17, §1(a), 67 Stat. 21; Aug. 29, 1957, Pub. L. 85-217, §1(b) (1st par.), 71 Stat. 491; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(3)(A), 78 Stat. 437.
551(3).	50 App. 1002(a) (96th through 120th words of 1st sentence, for definition purposes).	

Only that portion of the source law which is applicable to members of the uniformed services and their dependents is codified in this section.

The words “In this chapter” are substituted for “For the purpose of this Act”.

In clause (1), the words “with respect to a member of a uniformed service” are inserted for clarity. In clause (1)(A), the word “lawful” is omitted as unnecessary in view of the accepted recognition of the fact that the word “wife” means a lawful wife. In clause (1)(E), the words “Secretary concerned, or his designee” are substituted for “head of the department concerned, or subordinate designated by him” to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(5). The definitions of “person”, “active service”, and “department”, respectively, in 50 App. U.S.C. 1001(a)(1), (b), and (d) are omitted as unnecessary in view of the definitions of “member”, “uniformed services”, “active service”, and “Secretary concerned”, in 37 U.S.C. 101(3), (5), (20), and (23).

The definitions in clauses (2) and (3), which do not appear in, but are based on, the source law are created for legislative convenience.

AMENDMENTS

1987—Pub. L. 100-26 substituted “In this chapter:” for “In this chapter—”, inserted “The term” at beginning of pars. (1) to (3), and substituted period for semicolon at end of par. (1) and period for “; and” at end of par. (2).

1985—Par. (1)(A). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “spouse” for “wife”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 501 of this title; title 10 sections 701, 1032, 1035, 1095a, 2181, 4342, 6954, 9342, 12301; title 26 section 112.

§ 552. Pay and allowances; continuance while in a missing status; limitations

(a) A member of a uniformed service who is on active duty or performing inactive-duty training, and who is in a missing status, is—

(1) for the period he is in that status, entitled to receive or have credited to his account the same pay and allowances, as defined in this chapter, to which he was entitled at the beginning of that period or may thereafter become entitled; and

(2) for the period, not to exceed one year, required for his hospitalization and rehabilitation after termination of that status, under regulations prescribed by the Secretaries concerned, with respect to incentive pay, considered to have satisfied the requirements of section 301 of this title so as to entitle him to a continuance of that pay.

However, a member who is performing full-time training duty or other full-time duty without pay, or inactive-duty training with or without pay, is entitled to the pay and allowances to which he would have been entitled if he had been on active duty with pay. Notwithstanding section 1523 of title 10 or any other provision of law, the promotion of a member while he is in a missing status is fully effective for all purposes, even though the Secretary concerned determines under section 556(b) of this title that the member died before the promotion was made.

(b) The expiration of a member's term of service while he is in a missing status does not end his entitlement to pay and allowances under subsection (a). Notwithstanding the death of a member while in a missing status, entitlement to pay and allowances under subsection (a) ends on the date—

(1) the Secretary concerned receives evidence that the member is dead; or

(2) that his death is prescribed or determined under section 555 of this title.

(c) A member is not entitled to pay and allowances under subsection (a) for a period during which he is officially determined to be absent from his post of duty without authority, and he is indebted to the United States for payments from amounts credited to his account for that period.

(d) A member who is performing full-time training duty or inactive-duty training is entitled to the benefits of this section only when he is officially determined to be in a missing status that results from the performance of duties prescribed by competent authority.

(e) A member in a missing status who is continued in that status under section 555 of this title is entitled to be credited with pay and allowances under subsection (a).

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §5(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 625; amended Pub. L. 92-169, §1, Nov. 24, 1971, 85 Stat. 489; Pub. L. 92-482, Oct. 12, 1972, 86 Stat. 796; Pub. L. 93-26, §1, Apr. 27, 1973, 87 Stat. 26; Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, §702(b)(1), (c), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 117.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
552(a)	50 App. 1002(a) (1st sentence, less last 46 words).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §2(a); added July 1, 1944, ch. 371, §2, 58 Stat. 679; Apr. 4, 1953, ch. 17, §1(a), 67 Stat. 21; Aug. 29, 1957, Pub. L. 85-217, §1(b) (1st par.), 71 Stat. 491; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(3), 78 Stat. 437.
	50 App. 1014 (as applicable to §1002(a) (1st sentence)).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §14 (as applicable to §2(a) (1st and last sentences)), 56 Stat. 147; Apr. 4, 1953, ch. 17, §1(e), 67 Stat. 21.
552(b)	50 App. 1002(a) (last 46 words of 1st sentence, and 2d sentence).	
552(c)	50 App. 1002(a) (3d sentence).	
552(d)	50 App. 1002(a) (last sentence).	
	50 App. 1014 (as applicable to §1002(a) (last sentence)).	

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—Continued

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
552(e)	50 App. 1006 (2d sentence as applicable to pay and allowances).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §6 (2d sentence, as applicable to pay and allowances); added Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 828, §1 (4th par.), 56 Stat. 1093; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(5)(B), 78 Stat. 437.

Only that portion of the source law which is applicable to members of the uniformed services and their dependents is codified in this section.

In subsection (a), the first 22 words are substituted for 50 App. U.S.C. 1002(a) (1st 66 words) to conform to the definitions in 37 U.S.C. 101(3), (18), (20), (22), and (23) and revised section 551(2) of this chapter. The words “pay and allowances, as defined in this chapter,” are substituted for the enumeration of pay and allowances in 50 App. U.S.C. 1002(a) (1st sentence) to conform to the definition in revised section 551(3) of this chapter. The words “on active duty” are substituted for “performing full-time active duty” to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(18).

In subsection (b), the first sentence is substituted for 50 App. U.S.C. 1002(a) (1st 21 words of 2d sentence). The words “or employment” are omitted as inapplicable to members of the uniformed services. The words “entitlement to pay and allowances under subsection (a) of this section” are substituted for “Such entitlement to pay and allowances” for clarity. The words “Notwithstanding the death of a member while in a missing status” are substituted for 50 App. U.S.C. 1002(a) (2d sentence, less 1st 21 words). The word “member” is substituted for “person” and the word “Secretary” is substituted for “department” to conform to the definitions in 37 U.S.C. 101(5) and (23).

In subsection (c), the words “A member” are substituted for “such person”. The words “under subsection (a) of this section” are inserted for clarity. The words “United States” are substituted for “Government” to conform to the style of title 37.

In subsection (d), the words “A member . . . he . . . in a missing status” are substituted for “Persons”, “such persons”, and the enumerated absent status to conform to the definitions in 37 U.S.C. 101(23) and revised section 551(2) of this chapter.

In subsection (e), the words “A member in a missing status” are substituted for “a person missing under the conditions specified in section 2 of this Act” to conform to the definition in revised section 551(2) of this chapter. The words “under subsection (a) of this section” are substituted for “as provided in section 2 of this Act”.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsecs. (b), (c), (e). Pub. L. 102-25 struck out “of this section” after “subsection (a)” wherever appearing.

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-26 provided for full effectiveness for all purposes of promotion of a member while he is in a missing status notwithstanding a determination of the Secretary of death of the member before the making of the promotion.

1972—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-482 designated existing provisions as cl. (1), added cl. (2), and struck out provisions relating to effectiveness of the promotion of a member of the uniformed services while he is in a missing status and the Secretary concerned determines under section 556(b) of this title that the member died before the promotion was made.

1971—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-169 provided that promotion of a member of the uniformed services while he is in a missing status is fully effective for all purposes even though the Secretary concerned determines that the member died before the promotion was made.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Section 2 of Pub. L. 93-26 provided that: "For the purposes of chapter 13 [§1301 et seq.] of title 38, United States Code, this Act [amending this section] becomes effective as of November 24, 1971. For all other purposes this Act becomes effective as of February 28, 1961."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-169 effective for the purposes of chapter 13 (§1301 et seq.) of Title 38, Veterans' Benefits, on Nov. 24, 1971, and for all other purposes effective as of Feb. 28, 1961, see section 3 of Pub. L. 92-169, set out as a note under section 1302 of Title 38.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 553, 555, 556, 557, 559 of this title; title 26 sections 112, 6013.

§ 553. Allotments; continuance, suspension, initiation, resumption, or increase while in a missing status; limitations

(a) Notwithstanding the end of the period for which it was made, an allotment, including one for the purchase of United States savings bonds, made by a member of a uniformed service before he was in a missing status may be continued for the period he is entitled to pay and allowances under section 552 of this title.

(b) When there is no allotment in effect, or when it is insufficient for a purpose authorized by the Secretary concerned, he, or his designee, may authorize new allotments or increases in allotments that are warranted by the circumstances and payable for the period the member is entitled to pay and allowances under section 552 of this title.

(c) The total of all allotments from the pay and allowances of a member in a missing status may not be more than the amount of pay and allowances he is permitted to allot under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

(d) A premium paid by the United States on insurance issued on the life of a member which is unearned because it covers a period after his death reverts to the appropriation of the department concerned.

(e) Subject to subsections (f) and (g), the Secretary concerned, or his designee, may, when he considers it in the interest of the member, his dependents, or the United States, direct the initiation, continuance, discontinuance, increase, decrease, suspension, or resumption of payments of allotments from the pay and allowances of a member entitled to pay and allowances under section 552 of this title.

(f) When the Secretary concerned officially reports that a member in a missing status is alive, the payments of allotments authorized by subsections (a)-(d) may, subject to section 552 of this title, be made until the date the Secretary concerned receives evidence that the member is dead or has returned to the controllable jurisdiction of the department concerned.

(g) A member in a missing status who is continued in that status under section 555 of this title is entitled to have the payments of allotments authorized by subsections (a)-(d) continued, increased, or initiated.

(h) When the Secretary concerned considers it essential for the well-being and protection of the dependents of a member on active duty (other

than a member entitled to pay and allowances under section 552 of this title), he may, with or without the consent, and subject to termination at the request, of the member—

(1) direct the payment of a new allotment from the pay of the member;

(2) increase or decrease the amount of an allotment made by the member; and

(3) continue payment of an allotment of the member which has expired.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §5(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 626; amended Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, §702(b)(1), (c), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 117.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
553(a)	50 App. 1003 (1st sentence).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §3, 56 Stat. 144; Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 828, §1 (1st par.), Stat. 1092; July 1, 1944, ch. 371, §3, 58 Stat. 680.
553(b).	50 App. 1003 (2d sentence, less provisos).	
553(c).	50 App. 1003 (1st proviso of 2d sentence).	
553(d)	50 App. 1003 (2d proviso of 2d sentence)	
553(e)	50 App. 1004.	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §4, 56 Stat. 144; Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 828, §1 (2d par.), 56 Stat. 1093; July 1, 1944, ch. 371, §4, 58 Stat. 680.
553(f)	50 App. 1006 (1st sentence).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §6 (1st sentence and 2d sentence, as applicable to allotments); added Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 828, §1 (4th par.), 56 Stat. 1093; Apr. 4, 1953, ch. 17, §1(b), 67 Stat. 21; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(5), 78 Stat. 437.
553(g).	50 App. 1014 (as applicable to §1006 (1st sentence)).	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §7, 56 Stat. 145; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-428, §1(6), 78 Stat. 437.
553(h)	50 App. 1007.	Mar. 7, 1942, ch. 166, §14 (as applicable to §6 (1st sentence)), 56 Stat. 147; Apr. 4, 1953, ch. 17, §1(e), 67 Stat. 21.

Only that portion of the source law which is applicable to members of the uniformed services and their dependents is codified in this section.

In subsection (a), the words "a member of a uniformed service . . . in a missing status . . . he . . . under section 552 of this title" are substituted for "any person . . . under section 2 of this Act . . . his absence", for clarity and to conform to the definition in revised section 551(2) of this chapter. The words "except as otherwise herein provided" are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b), the words "Secretary concerned, he, or his designee," are substituted for "head of the department concerned . . . head of the department concerned, or such subordinate as he may designate" to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(5). The word "member" is substituted for "person" to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(23).

In subsection (c), the words "in effect" are omitted as unnecessary. The words "member in a missing status" are substituted for "absent person" to conform to the definition in revised section 551(2) of this chapter.

In subsection (d), the words "United States" are substituted for "Government" to conform to the style of title 37. The word "member" is substituted for "person" to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(23).

In subsection (e), the words "Secretary concerned, or his designee," are substituted for "head of the department concerned, or such subordinates as he may designate," to conform to the definition in 37 U.S.C. 101(5). The words "United States" are substituted for "Government" to conform to the style of title 37. The words "when he considers it" are substituted for "When cir-